GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Registration & Stamps Department – Allegation of corruption against Sri R.Damodara Rao, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps Department, Visakhapatnam – Departmental Action for violation of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 – Departmental proceedings under Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Articles of Charge - Orders – Issued.

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REVENUE (VIGILANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.430 **Dated: 22-03-2019**
Read the following:

1.From the DG., ACB, Vijayawada, Rc.No.03/RE-CIU/2016, dt.16-08-2017.
2.From the DG., ACB, Vijayawada, Lr.No.03/RE-CIU/2015, dt.17-05-2018.
3.From the DG., ACB, Vijayawada, Lr.No.03/RE-CIU/2015, dt.20-03-2019.
4.G.O.Ms.No.257, Revenue (Vig-II) Department, dated 22-03-2019.

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O R D E R :

It is proposed to hold an enquiry against Sri R.Damodara Rao, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps Department, Visakhapatnam District in accordance with the procedure laid down in Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the enquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of Articles of Charge (Annexure-I). A Statement of imputations of misconduct / misbehaviour (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which and a list of witnesses by whom the proposed Articles of Charge are sustained (Annexure-III and IV).

3. Sri R.Damodara Rao, District Registrar, Registration & Stamp1s Department, Visakhapatnam District is directed to submit his Written Statement of Defense within 15 days of the receipt of this order and also to state whether he desires to be heard in person.

4. He is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of those articles of charge as are not admitted. He should, therefore specifically admit or deny each article of charge.

5. Sri R.Damodara Rao, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps Department, Visakhapatnam District is further informed that if he does not submit his Written Statement of Defense on or before the date specified in para-3 above, or does not appear in person before the inquiry authority or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 or the orders / directions issued in pursuance of the said rules, the inquiring authority may hold the inquiry against him ex-parte.

6. Attention of Sri R.Damodara Rao, District Registrar, Registration & Stamps Department, Visakhapatnam District is invited to Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government Servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt with in these proceedings, it

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will be presumed that he is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Service (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Dr.D.SAMBASIVA RAO
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (CT, EXCISE & R&S)

To
The Individual (***through*** *the* Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Eedupugallu, Vijayawada *with a request to serve the G.O. to the individual and furnish the served copy with signature and dated acknowledgement for record*)
The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Eedupugallu, Vijayawada.

Copy to:

The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, A.P.Secretariat, Velagapudi, Guntur District.
The Director General, Anti Corruption Bureau, Andhra Pradesh, Pandit Nehur Bus Station, NTR Administrative Block, IInd Floor, Vijayawada.
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Visakhapatnam.
SF/SC.

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SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-I

ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI REDDY DAMODARA RAO, S/O (LATE) APPALA NAIDU, 58 YEARS, DISTRICT REGISTRAR, STAMPS AND REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT, VISAKHAPATNAM.

That Sri Reddy Damodara Rao, S/o.(late) Appala Naidu worked as District Registrar, Stamps and Registration Department, Visakhapatnam, from 02.08.2013 to 05.07.2016. While working as District Registrar, Stamps and Registration, Visakhapatnam he has committed grave misconduct in as much as.

Charge : That Sri Reddy Damodara Rao, S/o (late) Appala Naidu, District Registrar, Stamps and Registration Department, Visakhapatnam kept the document of Sri K.S.N.Raju pending for impounding and validation without collecting deficit fee since 18.01.2015 and finally validated on 31.03.2016 as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh with ulterior motive to extract money from Sri K.S.N.Raju.

Thus Sri Reddy Damodara Rao, S/o.(late) Appala Naidu while working as District Registrar, Stamps and Registration Department, Visakhapatnam by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty, and conduct un-becoming of a Government Servant and thereby contravened Rules 3 (1) & (2) of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

Dr.D.SAMBASIVA RAO
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (CT, EXCISE & R&S)

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SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATION OF MIS-CONDUCT IN SUPPORT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGE FRAMED AGAINST SRI REDDY DAMODARA RAO, S/O (LATE) APPALA NAIDU, 58 YEARS, DISTRICT REGISTRAR, STAMPS AND REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT, VISAKHAPATNAM.

That Sri Reddy Damodara Rao, S/o.(late) Appala Naidu, working as District Registrar, Stamps and Registration Department, Visakhapatnam. His date of birth is 10-05-1961. He joined in Government Service as Reserve Sub Registrar on 22-07-1985 and worked in the same capacity in various places, i.e. 1) Reserve Sub Registrar, O/o.the District Registrar, Chittoor 2) Sub Registrar Grade-II, Vorvakal, Kurnool District. 3) Sub Registrar Grade-II, O/o the ROR, Kurnool 4) Sub Registrar Grade-II, Kodmur, Kurnool District 5) Sub Registrar Grade-I, Nandyala, Kurnool District 6) Sub Registrar Grade-II, Audit, Visakhapatnam, 7) Audit Sub Registrar, Visakhapatnam 8) Sub Registrar Grade-II, Madhuravada, Visakhapatnam, and subsequently Promoted as District Registrar on 04-12-2008 and worked as District Registrar at Visakhapatnam from 02-08-2013 to 05-07-2016. He attains the age of superannuation on 31.05.2021 and here in after referred as Government Servant.

2. Whereas a petition dated 17.02.2016 has been received from Sri K.S.N.Raju, S/o.K.Satyanarayana, R/o.MIG-11B, Sector-6, Plot No. 31, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam alleging that Sri R.Damodara Rao, District Registrar, Visakhapatnam demanded and accepted bribe of Rs.15.00 lakhs from him for impounding and validation of unregistered sale deed and further demanded Rs.50.00 lakhs to release the document. Basing on the above petition, a Regular Enquiry was taken up by the Bureau against Sri R.Damodar Rao, District Registrar and Sri Rohan Kumar, Sub-Registrar, Visakhapatnam.

3. That the enquiry, disclosed that Sri K.S.N.Raju, on 05.06.1970 purchased a vacant site of area 1840 Sq.Yards in T.Sy.No.1031P of Waltair ward, Block No. 45, Visakhapatnam City from Varahabhatla Manikeswara Rao through unregistered sale deed out of total area of Ac 4.50 Cents. The said Sri Manikeswara Rao had acquired the above said land through a registered GPA Document No.29/1970, dated 26.02.1970 of SRO, Visakhapatnam from Sri Nalam Ramalingeswara Rao. The said Sri Nalam Ramalingeswara Rao is the owner according to document No.499/1970, Book-1, Volume-IV of SRO, Visakhapatnam. The said land has been in his possession and enjoyment since the date of its purchase till date. He had constructed an ACC roofed shed therein since its purchase. The Revenue Officials and GVMC officials informed him that the road widening was taking place in the above said site in the year 2012. As he has no knowledge about these aspects, he took assistance of his cousin, Sri Penumatsa Srinivasa Rao to approach Hon'ble Court. He filed WP No.35146/2012 in Hon'ble High Court of A.P., Hyderabad by praying that the respondents should not interfere with the peaceful possession and enjoyment of the above said property. The respondents filed counter stating that they had neither interfered in his peaceful possession and enjoyment over the aforesaid land nor had they tried to dispossess him from the above said property. "Further, the respondent stated that personal inspection was made in the said land and it was noticed that the petitioner is in possession and enjoyment of the above said land and structure, i.e., shed raised by the petitioner is also existing". Then he has approached the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam on 18.01.2015 along with all relevant documents pertaining to the above said property with a request for impounding and validation of the unregistered document of the above said property. The District Registrar further asked him to submit some more relevant documents. Then he had submitted the same to him. In spite of the same, the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam did not take any action and went on postponing the work from time to time. Then he approached the Hon'ble Deputy CM and Minister for Revenue, Govt. of A.P., with request to direct the concerned authorities to impound and validate the documents submitted to the concerned authorities under Stamps & Registration Act. On his request, the

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Hon'ble Deputy CM (Revenue) directed the District Registrar to examine and consider his request vide Endt.No.397/DY.C.M(Rev)/15, dated 18.04.2015. He again approached the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam on the above endorsement and made the same request. The District Registrar issued a notice to him vide Notice No.G1/976/2015 dated 10.06.2015 and asked him to furnish the documents mentioned in the notice to enable him to assess proper stamp duty for impounding. Then he submitted the concerned documents mentioned in the above notice to the District Registrar. But the District Registrar did not respond properly and asked him again to bring the endorsement to enable him to expedite the impounding document as per Indian Stamp Act from the Hon'ble Dy.CM (Rev). He approached the Hon'ble Dy.CM (Rev) again and was pleased to issue direction to the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam to "Pl. expedite the impounding document as per Indian Stamp Act" vide Endt.No.590/DY.C.M(Rev)/15, dated 15.06.2015. In spite of the direction from the Hon'ble Dy.CM (Rev), the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam still insisted on a direction from the Commissioner & Inspector General of Registration & Stamps, AP., Hyderabad. Thereafter, on his request, the Commissioner & Inspector General gave direction to the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam vide memo No. S2/6035/2015, dated 25.06.2015. After submission of the above memo, the District Registrar asked him to furnish the remaining documents mentioned in the notice to enable him to assess proper stamp duty for impounding. Then he submitted all the concerned documents mentioned in the above notice to the District Registrar on 26.06.2015 along with memo No.S2/6035/2015, dated 25.06.2015 of the Commissioner and Inspector General of Registration and Stamps. Then the District Registrar asked him to pay bribe of Rs.15 lakhs to do his work. Although he was not willing to pay the demanded bribe amount to the District Registrar, having no other option, he agreed to pay the demanded bribe amount. After he had told him so, the District Registrar returned the original unregistered document of the above said property in question to him directly. On the same day evening, he along with his cousin Sri Penumatsa Srinivasa Raju and Sri Bagadi Satish Naidu who entered in to the agreement to purchase the above said land in the name of his father Sri Bagadi Venkata Naidu and also made pending registration vide document No.P383/2015 of SRO, Anandapuram, went to the house of Sri Reddy Damodara Rao, District Registrar, Visakhapatnam, residing at Patro's Vinayagar, North Avenue, CBM Compound, beside Sampath Vinayak Temple, Visakhapatnam City. He and Sri B.Satish Naidu stayed back near the said apartment and Sri P.Srinivasa Raju went into the flat of Sri Reddy Dhamodhara Rao, District Registrar, Visakhapatnam. On the further demand of District Registrar, Sri.P.Srinivasa Raju handed over the bribe amount of Rs.15 lakhs to Sri R.Damodara Rao, District Registrar at about 20.00 to 21.00 hours on 27.06.2015. Then the District Registrar directed him to apply for the registration for the above said property at the office of the Joint Sub-Registrar, Anandapuram, Visakhapatnam, through anywhere online registration system. On 31-07-2015, the petitioner approached the Joint Sub-Registrar, Anandapuram and he made registration pending document No.383/2015, dated 31.07.2015 of SRO, Anandapuram as per the directions of the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam. The SRO, Anandapuram sent the matter under Rule-3 to JSRO, Visakhapatnam-1, as the said property is existing in jurisdiction of JSRO-1. The JSRO-1 VSP rejected the document two times on the ground that at present petition vide WP No.35146/2012 is pending. Then he approached the Hon'ble Dy.CM (Rev) on 02.11.2015 with a request to conduct ETS survey for the above said property. The Hon'ble Dy.CM (Rev) directed the Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhapatnam, vide Rc.No.12797/2015/D, dated 06-11-2015 to get ETS survey conducted for the said land. The Revenue Divisional Officer requested the Asst.Director, Survey & Land Records, Visakhapatnam to conduct ETS survey for the above said land. The Collector's office made an endorsement vide L.Dis.No.1301/2016/F1, dated 26.04.2016 stating that the Asst.Director of Survey & Lands Records, Visakhapatnam had conducted ETS survey in the presence of the petitioner along with GVMC and VUDA surveyors. The District Registrar, kept the registration work

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pending with SRO Anandapuram, and postponed the registration. During January 2016, Sri Reddy Damodara Rao again demanded that he should pay bribe amount of Rs.50 lakhs to complete the registration which was still pending with SRO, Anandapuram. But he did not agree to pay the demanded bribe amount to Sri Reddy Damodara Rao, District Registrar. Meanwhile, electrical meter connection was sanctioned to the above said site vide SC No.1121031323383114 in the name of Bagadi Venkata Naidu, in whose name registration of sale deed was still pending at SRO, Anandapuram. Thereafter, the District Registrar Sri Reddy Damodara Rao had issued a memo No.G1/976/2016, dated 08.02.2016 to SRO, Anandapuram rejecting the document and a copy of the memo was marked to him. Aggrieved by this action, he approached Hon'ble High Court of AP vide WP No.7729/2016 with a request to issue orders to impounding and validation of the submitted original sale deed dated 05.06.1970 by collecting the deficit stamp duty from the petitioner. The Hon'ble High Court of AP disposed of the same with a direction to the District Registrar in the above Writ petition "to impound the above document dated 05.06.1970 produced by the petitioner within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of the copy of this order and collect the deficit stamp duty and penalty under section 38 (2) of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899" and also imposed fine of Rs.2000/- on the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam. He has approached the Hon'ble Dy.CM (Rev) on 17.02.2016 with a request to take action against the District Registrar, Visakhapatnam with a request to release the pending document. The Government servant finally validated the documents on 31.3.2016 as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court.

4. That Sri Reddy Damodara Rao wilfully caused delay and kept the document of Sri K.S.N.Raju pending for impounding and validation without collecting deficit fee since 18-01-2015 and finally validated on 31-03-2016 as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of A P with ulterior motive to extract money from Sri K.S.N.Raju.

5. That Sri Reddy Damodara Rao S/o. (late) Appala Naidu while working as District Registrar, Stamps and Registration Department, Visakhapatnam by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty, and conduct un-becoming of a Government Servant and thereby contravened Rules 3 (1) & (2) of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

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ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF WITNESSESS IN RC.No.3/RE/2016 OF ACB, CIU, A.P., VIJAYAWADA.

Sl	Name of the witnesses
1.	Sri Kalidindi Satyanarayana Raju, S/o.Satyanarayana Raju, 56 years, R/o.MIG 11B, Sector-6, Flat No. 31, MVP Colony, Visakhapatnam City.
2.	Sri Penumatsa Srinivasa Raju, S/o.Lakshmipathi Raju, 38 years, R/o D.No. 9-5-52/6, FF-6, Sujan Residency, Peethalavanipalem, Visakhapatnam.
3.	Sri Bagadi Satish Naidu, S/o.Venkat Naidu, 28 years, R/o D.No.31-5-9/43, Flat No.504, Sri Mitra Residency, Kurmannapalem, Visakhapatnam-46.
4.	Sri Yellapu Srinivasa Rao, S/o.Butcha Rao, 46 years, Gavara by Caste, R/o.D.No.36-93-349/15, Alluri Sitarama Raju Colony, Indira Nagar-5, Kancharapalem, Visakhapatnam-8.
5.	Smt.Alla Nagalakshmi, W/o.B.Srinivas, 41 years, Deputy Inspector General, Registration and Stamps Department, Visakhapatnam.
6.	Smt.A.Krishna Veni, Sr.Asst., O/o.SRO, Anandapuram, Visakhapatnam District.
7.	Sri K.V.S.Ravi, Tahsildar, Gajuwaka Mandal, Visakhapatnam
8.	Smt. L.B. Nagalakshmi, Superintendent, O/o.the Joint Collector, ULC, Visakhapatnam
9.	IO
10.	Any other witness to be mentioned at the time of enquiry

Dr.D.SAMBASIVA RAO
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (CT, EXCISE & R&S)

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ANNEXURE-IV
LIST OF DOCUMENTS.

Sl.No.	Name of the document/Register.
1.	Documents furnished by Deputy Inspector General of Registration and Stamps Department, Visakhapatnam vide Letter No.G1/777/2016, dated 14.05.2016 which contains the following.
2.	Copy of the file maintained by District Registrar, Visakhapatnam in File No. G1/976/2015.
3.	Copy of the file maintained by District Registrar, Visakhapatnam vide File No.G1/2316/2015.
4.	Any other document to be filed at the time of enquiry.

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